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SECURITY INFORMATION

German Democratic Republic

FOI Abstract of [REDACTED]

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URANIUM MINING IN THE GDR (1 p; German; dated [REDACTED]; acquired in [REDACTED]; date
25X1C of information: [REDACTED] report distributed 9 July 1952)

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25X1C This document is a typewritten report, dated [REDACTED] 1952 and written at [REDACTED], on
uranium mining in the GDR. The report contains the following information: 25X1A

25X1X According to [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED], conditions in the uranium-prospecting area at Saalfeld/Thuringen areas follows: Excavation operations are carried on in three shifts; workers change shifts weekly. The installations are well equipped. Accidents did not occur during the latter part of 1951. The uraniferous rock and earth are loaded onto trucks (tippers) and transported to Bad Blankenburg by the Soviets. The analysis of the rock and earth and the planning of the expansion of pits and installations are done by Soviet geologists only. The management of the mine and supervision activities are also in Soviet hands. The uranium mine is located about 17 kilometers northeast of Saalfeld, and excavating operations are carried out in about 200 places. A total of 5,000-6,000 workers are probably employed. The workers, almost exclusively Germans, are not from Saalfeld or the vicinity, but from the entire Soviet Zone area. ~~XXX~~ During the summer and fall of 1951, a fairly large number of stone and wood houses were built in the vicinity of the installations, which are intended for German workers only. These quarters are comparatively modern and comfortable. No houses were evacuated in Saalfeld and the surrounding area because of uranium-mining activities. Starting wages of 70-80 East marks per week are paid, and after two months of employment, the workers receive increases to 100-120 East marks monthly. Experienced specialists and technicians receive from 800-1,200 East marks per month. The German workers are not being politically indoctrinated, but, by way of propaganda, the Soviet work methods are constantly pointed out to them. 25X1X

The following information was recently obtained from [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Uranium-prospecting activities in Steinach and vicinity are being continued according to plan. In Steinach, the houses located on Rottenbach, Steinbruechlein, and Schottland Streets are to be evacuated. In this connection, an appeal was made recently to the occupants of the houses on these streets for voluntary evacuation. It was reported that none volunteered, and, therefore, announcement of forcible evacuation was made. In and around Steinach, at intervals of 20 meters, shafts, each 2 meters wide and 9 meters deep, are to be driven into the ground. The main uranium-prospecting work is to be undertaken in the woods near the "Fuchsfarm" (Fox Farm) at Mengersgereuth-Haennern. Wismut workers are supposedly quartered at the "Fuchsfarm" itself. At present, 300-400 workers in Steinach are employed by the Wismut Corporation. Additional workers are transported to and from the place of work by busses; it is not known where these workers are billeted.

/The above is a complete exploitation of the document. 7

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28 July 1952

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